

on one or both sides of the load beam. The side tabs 120 are moved by means of a tool for lifting or lowering the suspension assembly. The addition of the flat side tabs which are in the same plane as the load beam does not add to the vertical Z-height of the suspension assembly.

Amend B3

Figs. 14A-C depict a partial suspension assembly having a slider 122 and a thin film transducer 124 at a slider end. The slider 122 has a flat top surface 126 on which the load dimple 76 is seated. The slider 122 is not formed with a step 78, as shown in the slider design of Fig. 7. The flat surface 126 extends across the entire top of the slider. However, the front end of the flexure 128 is bent at sections 130 and 132, as shown in Fig. 14B to allow the flexure to come down by a distance substantially equivalent to the height of the load dimple 76. In this way, the flexure 128 contacts the flat top surface 126 of the slider 122. The slider is bonded to the bent sections 130 and 132 by adhesive fillets 134 and 136. The flat contact surfaces of flexure 128 and flat surface 126 at the top of the slider are also bonded together by adhesive. By using a flat surface slider, the slider requires less machining, thus realizing a savings in time and labor costs as well as a reduction in possible breakage and error during production."

IN THE CLAIMS

Amend Claim 1 as follows:

Claim 1, line 5, after "having" insert --sides and--;
line 6, after "tongue" insert --at one end--.

Add Claims 20-22 as follows:

c
B4
20. An assembly as in Claim ¹²²1, including ^{at least one} a load/unload tab formed at ~~at least one of~~ the sides of said load beam section.

21. An assembly as in Claim 2, wherein said top non-air bearing surface is substantially flat.

c
c
d
22. An assembly as in Claim 21, wherein said ^{lateral ear} ~~flexure section~~ includes bent sections for ^{contacting} ~~enabling contact of~~ said flexure ~~section~~ with said top surface of said slider.

REMARKS

Applicants are submitting this preliminary amendment with the continuation-in-part application to include additional disclosure. Figs. 13, 13A, 14A, 14B and 14C have been added with